



**West/Central Area Committee
(City Councillors representing Castle, Market
and Newnham Wards)
15 December 2005 7:30pm – 9.05pm
Minutes & Actions**

Present: Councillors: John Hipkin, Marie-Louise Holland, Simon Kightley (Castle Ward), Colin Rosenstiel, Joye Rosenstiel (Market Ward), Sian Reid and Julie Smith (Newnham Ward)

Also Present: County Councillors Alex Reid (Newnham Ward) and Gaynor Griffiths (Market Ward)

Additional information for public: City Council officers can also be emailed firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk
The Committee Manager for West/Central Area Committee is liz.whitcher@cambridge.gov.uk

Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website:
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Firstname.lastname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

05/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mike Dixon and Rod Cantrill and from County Councillor David White

05/45 OPEN FORUM

This was an Open Forum with a special theme. Kevin Reynolds the Head of Strategy at the Primary Care Trust gave a presentation on the recent innovation, the Choose & Book Scheme. The scheme comes into effect on 1 January 2006. It allows a patient's GP to arrange a specialist appointment on the spot. Rehabilitation/aftercare can be offered locally.

The GP and patient work through a list of choices on computer screen: choose a specialist (including choice of male or female) from a list of 4-5 hospitals, decide between the need for a routine or an urgent referral, choose a date and time from a list and then book the appointment. The computer screen also gives details of parking and travel arrangements. The appointment letter is printed off and handed to the patient at the end of the GP appointment. The GP then follows up with a referral letter to the specialist as happens now.

If the patient would prefer to book later they can do that on-line, by phone or text message and are given a unique reference number.

The advantages of the system for the GP are:

- Simple referral process
- Full directory of all secondary care that is available
- Fewer queries from patients after the initial appointment
- Advice and guidance facility helps him/her to discuss the medical condition with the patient
- Fewer "did not attend"s

The advantages for the patient are:

- Greater convenience and less stress
- Choice of specialist, date and time to suit
- Helps discussion of treatment options

In Cambridge city and South Cambridgeshire 5 hospitals have so far signed up to the scheme including Addenbrookes, Hinchingsbrooke, Peterborough, West Suffolk, Bedford. Only contracted hospitals/clinics will take part in the scheme. In future, all hospitals in the country are expected to sign up to the Scheme.

The Choose and Book Scheme will only be used for first appointments; follow-up appointments will be made with the hospital.

At present, 29 of the 34 GP practices in the county have contracted in to the scheme and it is expected that all will have done so by 1 January 2006.

Services excluded from the Scheme are Emergency, Urgent referrals, Maternity Services, Mental Health Services and Cataract Services (there are only a limited number of providers for the last three).

Members of the public and councillors asked questions and raised issues:

1. Was anywhere in Europe part of the choice?

A: No and not anticipated in the foreseeable future.

2. What happens if the computer service goes down?

System had gone down recently; back up is the old paper system.

3. What happens if the most convenient hospital does not have an appointment for months?
- A: True – but at least you can see what the options are.
4. What timescale for the roll out of the whole scheme nationwide?
- A: Electronic access to patient records and the option of at least 5 hospitals due by January 2007.
5. Hospitals rely to some extent on people not turning up for appointments so will it mean better use of resources?
- A: While many clinics allow for 1-2 absences, the actual average non attendance runs at 30%.
6. When was the system designed as it looks in terms of screen presentation more like 1980s than the 21st century?
- A: It has been under design during the past two years and it is more for use by GPs than the public on their own.
7. Is it accessible by mobile phone and is it suitable for the partially sighted?
- A: Yes if they have the facility.
8. Are there any statistics about how long it takes to complete one session; the average GP appointment is 10 minutes at present?
- A: GPs were unsure at first but are now liking the facility. They spend on average 5 more minutes with the patient but there are fewer phone calls from the patient following the consultation. 300 bookings for appointments have been made so far in this area.
9. Suggest use of plain English for the terms for the various specialisms.
- A: Appreciate this but the technical part of the system is meant to be used by a medical person who can explain the terms to the patient.

05/46 MINUTES AND ACTION SHEETS

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2005 were amended as follows (changes highlighted in bold) and then signed as a correct record:

Under 05/41 Declarations of Interest:

“Code of Conduct personal interests in Planning Applications were declared as follows:

Councillor	Application	Nature of interest
Hipkin	05/0862/FUL	Knows the applicant as a constituent.
Kightley	05/0862/FUL	Had made the request for the application to be considered at committee but had not fettered his discretion.

Code of Conduct (personal and prejudicial) interests in Planning Applications were declared as follows. The Councillor indicated left the room, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the item.

Councillor Dixon	Application 05/0862/FUL	Nature of interest The wife of the applicant is a close personal friend of his family.”
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05/47 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

05/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Code of Conduct (personal and prejudicial) interests in Planning Applications were declared as follows. The Councillor indicated left the room, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the item.

Councillor J Rosenstiel	Application 05/0917/S73	Nature of interest She had emailed the Planning Officer to register her objection to the application and thus had fettered her discretion.
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05/49 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME (EIP)

The Landscape Architect introduced the report. She alerted the Committee to the fact that more than £50,000 remained in the budget for the year.

She then highlighted projects which had now been completed – Salmon Lane lights had been switched on; the work on the Millington Road/Marlow Road cut through had begun that day; she had obtained up to £10,000 from Safer City funding for CCTV cameras in the Elizabeth Way underpass and an application would be made to the Environmental Safety Fund for lighting for the underpass.

She then turned to the recommendations in the report. The results of the consultation with residents in Windsor Road/Oxford Road/Richmond Road showed that there was good support for the proposed works and residents had indicated the order of priority they wished to have. The highest priority was the cut through between Windsor Road and Richmond Road.

The Chair asked whether the pedestrian crossing would be included in the scheme.

The Landscape Architect said that the crossing would be considered at the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee on 10 January when a report considering provision of crossings in the city was due to be considered.

The Chair asked the residents from the Windsor Road area who were present how they viewed the proposed scheme which now did not include the raised table area.

The residents indicated that they were pleased with the work being proposed. They wondered whether any money could be obtained from the builder who had created some of the mess in the cut through.

Councillor C Rosenstiel was of the view that at least some of the problems were due to arrears of maintenance by the Highways Authority and that they should be contacted about that before the City Council spent money on improvements.

After considerable discussion, the Committee noted that the improvements proposed were a matter of high priority for local residents and that the County Council as Highways Authority also had to prioritise needs across the whole of the county leading to delay in highways maintenance for areas such as this.

The Committee voted on the recommendations in the officer report:

2.1 Resolved (unanimously) to proceed with investigation and design of the 'cut through' between Windsor Road and Richmond Road and bring back to this Committee for the final go-ahead.

2.2 Resolved (unanimously) to proceed with investigation and detail design of the Highway between the traffic calming bollards on Windsor Road and the junction with Histon Road and bring back to this Committee following consultation with residents for final approval.

As this was the last meeting at which the Principal Landscape Architect, Helen Hepburn, would be presenting a report, the Chair thanked her for her work over the past years and wished her well in her future work outside the Council.

Helen Hepburn introduced Emily Bingley, Landscape Architect, who would be attending the meetings in future to present the Environmental Improvements reports.

05/50 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE GRANTS 2005-06

The Grants Manager tabled an updated report to include an application received since the agenda was published. This was an application for contribution to the setting up of a website for Christ's Pieces Residents Association which promotes and supports interests of 300 local residents. The application was for a grant of £500.

The Committee noted that, if the recommendations that evening were agreed, there remained £5895 unspent in the current year's budget and that any funds remaining at the end of the financial year in March 2006, would be likely to be returned to the central funds of the Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure.

The Grants Manager encouraged groups to apply especially those that were rather loosely organised and might have no other sources of grant funding. The appendix to the report outlined what sorts of activities grants would be awarded for and the criteria that needed to be met.

The Committee voted on the recommendations in the officer report:

Resolved (by 6 votes to 0) to award a grant of £500 to Christ's Pieces Residents Association to help set up a website.

Resolved (by 7 votes to 0) to award a grant of £1740 to Cambridge Canoe Club to provide equipment for local youth programme.

05/51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 1 **APPLICATION NO:** 05/1069/FUL
SITE: 72-74 Newmarket Road (Market)
PROPOSAL: Change of use from office (Class A2) to 2no. 3 bed flats.
APPLICANT: Mr P Merryweather
PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Mr George Reid (on behalf of the Citizen's Advice Bureau who currently lease the building)

The Planning Officer introduced the report and said that in section 3.0 Site History, the report should have referred to a previous similar application which had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Resolved (by 7 votes to 0) to refuse the application for the reasons given in the officer report and to add (by 5 votes to 0) a reason relating to loss of a community facility (Citizens Advice Bureau) contrary to Policy CS1 of the Cambridge Local Plan 1996 and (by 6 votes to 0) a reason that it is an inappropriate site for residential development due to noise and disturbance caused by use of adjacent car parking and cash machines of the bank at the adjacent premises, contrary to Policy EO1 of Cambridge Local Plan 1996.

The wording of the amended refusal was agreed with the Chair.

- 2** **APPLICATION NO:** 05/0917/S73
SITE: B-Bar, Market Passage (Market)
PROPOSAL: To extend the hours that the premises may be open by variation of condition 7 of planning permission reference C/00/0723/FP (0700 hrs to 0030 hours the following morning on Monday to Thursday, 0700 hrs to 0130 hours the following morning on Friday and Saturday, 1000 hrs to 0030 hours the following morning on Sunday and extended hours for Christmas, New Year and St Patrick's Day).
APPLICANT: McMullen & Sons Ltd.
PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Mr Steven Gill (for the applicant)

The Planning Officer introduced the report and said that the application had been approved by the Licensing Sub-Committee on 23 November 2005.

Resolved (by 5 votes to 0) to approve the application as agenda.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Chair